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# Tip to AP on Ex-Nazi's Killing Leads to Body in Montevideo

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — A tip to the Associated Press in Bonn, Germany, that an alleged former Nazi had been killed in Montevideo led yesterday to the discovery of a mystery body in a trunk in the Uruguayan capital.

The Montevideo police chief, Col. Ventura Rodriguez, said the body was found in a home in a fashionable section of the city. Police would give no positive identification of the body nor the cause of death.

A group calling itself "Those Who Can Never Forget" notified the Associated Press in Bonn that on Feb. 23 in Montevideo it killed Latvian-born Herbert Cukurs, whom it identified as a former Nazi involved in the wartime slaying of 30,000 Jews. It added that he was an aeronautical engineer.

## Clearly Identified.

The body could be found in a trunk at Casa Cubertini, Calle Colombia, Balneario Parque Carasco in Montevideo, the group said.

The police found the building without much trouble, went inside and found the body in a big, bloodstained trunk in a bedroom. Police commented that every effort seemed to have been made to identify the body as that of Cukurs through various means, including a plaque and an airline ticket bearing Cukur's name.

Police gave this account of their finding the body:

A key had been broken off on the inside of the house's door and officers entered through a window. In the living room near the fireplace there was a pool of blood and two bloodstained blankets.

The body was in a trunk in

the bedroom. On the floor were three spent .22-caliber cartridges and two cartridges that had not been fired. A spring from a pistol was found nearby.

Police said they found a metal wristband of a man's watch and a small gold plaque with a German Air Force insignia bearing an inscription in French, "Membre d'Honneur Ligue International des Aviateurs Albert Cukurs." The Bonn tipster had given Cukurs' first name as Herbert. An Air France ticket dated Feb. 20 for a flight from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Montevideo and Buenos Aires also was made out to "Albert Cukurs."

## Achievements Priased

The plaque's inscription to Cukurs also said in French: "In recognition of his personal contribution to the development of aviation and his brilliant cooperation with the international League of Aviators and for universal peace." It was signed, "Clifford B. Harman."

Police said two men had rented the house a month ago. They said the owner, Angel Jimenez, refused payment from the men in U.S. dollars because he distrusted them, although he apparently never reported anything to police. Police said that from neighbors and Jimenez they got a description of the two men as one tall and thin, about 60, French-speaking; the other about 50 and Spanish-speaking.

Police said one neighbor told them that on Feb. 20 the two men arrived with a sort of large box and in his presence one of the men remarked, "At last we have the icebox."

Alejandro Otero, in charge of the police intelligence section, said he had received recently an

anonymous letter reporting the case, evidently with the intention of bringing it to the attention of authorities. He added he had visited the area where the house is located but had noted nothing suspicious.

The tip to the Associated Press office in Bonn also first arrived as an anonymous note. It told of Cukur's alleged Nazi past and his killing. The note arrived some days ago and it too was dismissed as a hoax.

A few days later, an unidentified man in Frankfurt called by telephone to ask if the note had been received and if the information had been sent to Montevideo.

When told that the original note had not been forwarded, the man offered to send another one, which arrived at the Associated Press office Saturday morning. Its contents were relayed to Montevideo.

The typewritten note said Cukurs was born in Latvia early in this century and had joined a Latvian Nazi organization. Later he supported the German Nazis and participated in the responsibility for killing more than 30,000 Jews, including those in the Riga ghetto, the note said.

## Tried and Executed

It added that Cukurs retreated with the Germans as the Soviet troops advanced and lived in Berlin after the war, resuming his profession of aeronautical engineer. Later he went to South America.

The "Those Who Can Never Forget" group tried Cukurs, sentenced him and executed him, the note said.